

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims:

19. (New) A method for detecting a nucleotide sequence in a nucleic acid molecule comprising the following steps:
  - (a) hybridization of nucleic acid molecules to a test set of probes of different nucleobase sequences, wherein each probe has a mass that differs from the one of all the other probes, and wherein the probes are generated as partial libraries having different mass and/or charge tags;
  - (b) separation of the probes that were not hybridized;
  - (c) detachment of a specifically hybridized probe in a solvent;
  - (d) analysis of the hybridized probes in a solution by means of electrospray mass spectrometry; and
  - (e) determination of the nucleic acid molecules by means of the probes hybridized to them.
20. (New) A method for detecting a nucleotide sequence in a nucleic acid molecule comprising the following steps:
  - (a) hybridization of nucleic acid molecules to a test set of probes of different nucleobase sequences, wherein each probe has a mass that differs from the one of all the other probes;
  - (b) immobilization of the nucleic acid molecules on at the surface of a support before or after step (a) using an  $\text{NH}_2$ , epoxy or SH function by means of coating the surface of the probe supports with a silicate or silane, via a protein-substrate, protein-protein or an interaction of two hydrophobic building blocks;
  - (c) separation of the probes that were not hybridized;
  - (d) detachment of a specifically hybridized probe in a solvent;
  - (e) analysis of the hybridized probes in a solution by means of electrospray mass spectrometry; and
  - (f) determination of the nucleic acid molecules by means of the probes hybridized to them.

REMARKS

1. Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has indicated that the application contains one or more species of a generic invention and further argues that the species lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as